

REMARKS

Claims 32-34 are cancelled by this Amendment. No claims are further amended or added. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3, 6-17, 20-31 and 35-42 will remain pending.

In the Final Office Action dated October 7, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Huston (U.S. Patent No. 5,816,757) in view of French reference 2 612 867. While the Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, the Applicants have elected to cancel claims 32-34 so that the remaining claims, which the Examiner allowed, may be passed to issue. In canceling claims 32-34, the Applicants do not expressly relinquish to the public domain the method encompassed thereby. To the contrary, the Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject of these claims in a divisional application.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-3, 6-17, 20-31 and 35-42. Since the cancellation of claims 32-34 leaves these claims pending, the application should now be in a condition for allowance.

GAGNE -- 10/021,572
Client/Matter: 086162-0284137

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975, control number 86162-0284137. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP



Jeffrey D. Karceski

Reg. No. 35,914

Tel. No. (703) 905-2110

Fax No. (703) 905-2500

JDK:dlh
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000